

OPS Contacts

OPS Emergency Response - General Information

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Pipelines and Informed Planning Alliance (PIPA)

Land development and construction near transmission pipelines increases the risk and consequences of serious pipeline incidents. Pipeline safety can be enhanced by following risk-informed land use planning practices for developing land near transmission pipelines. PIPA aims to improve communication between pipeline operators and property owners/developers regarding land use planning practices.

<http://www.pipelineinformedplanning.com>

Call Before You Dig - 811

Excavation damage is a leading cause of serious pipeline incidents that kill or injure people or damage property. Emergency responders can help spread the word about the importance of preventing excavation damage to underground utilities. The primary tool for avoiding damage to underground facilities is timely communication between excavators and the facility owners. One-call centers facilitate this communication process by enabling an excavator to place just one call, prior to digging, to request that all underground facilities in the area of a planned excavation be located and marked. The national call-before-you-dig telephone number is 811. A call to 811 from anywhere in the nation automatically routes the caller to the local one-call center.

<http://www.call811.com>

Stakeholder Communications Website

OPS's Stakeholder Communications website is tailored to various pipeline safety stakeholders. It provides information about many aspects of pipeline safety, including emergency response.

<http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm>

Community Assistance & Technical Services (CATS)

To improve communication with a variety of pipeline safety stakeholders, OPS Community Assistance and Technical Services (CATS) managers are located in each OPS region. They work with state pipeline safety partners and other stakeholders to identify opportunities for improving pipeline safety. CATS managers are available to provide additional information about OPS programs.

<http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/CATS.htm>



U.S. Department of Transportation

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials
Safety Administration

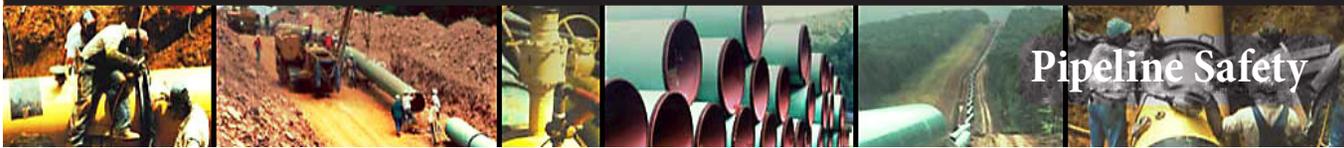
Office of Pipeline Safety

Resources for
Emergency Responders

Ensuring a safe, reliable, and
environmentally sound pipeline
transportation system



Know what's below.
Call 811 before you dig.



Pipeline Safety

Pipeline Emergencies Training

Several pipeline emergency training resources are available at no cost. One of these is “Pipeline Emergencies,” which was produced by the National Association of State Fire Marshals and PHMSA and authored by Mike Hildebrand and Greg Noll. “Pipeline Emergencies” is tailored to the needs of emergency responders and provides a comprehensive overview of pipeline operations and pipeline emergency response. It includes information about the commodities transported by pipelines, related videos, an instructors guide for fire trainers, and mobile apps for iPhone and Android devices.

<http://www.pipelineemergencies.com>

Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG)

The 2012 edition of the ERG contains expanded information about pipelines, including:

- A basic overview of pipeline types, associated structures and markers
- Indications of pipeline leaks and ruptures
- The fundamentals of safe and effective response

Product information, as well as the physical state and pressure of the product in the pipeline, is critical to responders to initiate public protective actions as soon as possible. Initial isolation zones and downwind protective action distances are listed in the ERG.

<http://phmsa.dot.gov/hazmat>

Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) Program

Informed communities play a vital role in pipeline safety. PHMSA’s Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) program offers new opportunities to strengthen the depth and quality of public participation in pipeline safety matters. The grant program is not strictly for emergency response activities, but the funding can be used to improve pipeline emergency response capabilities at the local level. Congress has authorized \$1.5 million annually for the program, with a maximum award of \$100,000 to a single recipient. Eligible recipients are communities and non-profit organizations. PHMSA advertises for grant applications in January of each year and makes awards in September of the same year.

<http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/DamagePreventionGrantsToStates.htm>
and <http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/tag>

the following information to emergency responders:

- Locations of pipelines and how to get more information about the pipelines
- Name of the pipeline operator and contact information for each pipeline
- Information about products transported
- Location of emergency response plans for pipelines
- How to safely respond to a pipeline emergency
- An overview of what operators need to do to prevent accidents and mitigate the consequences of accidents when they occur
- How to contact the operator for additional information

Although not required by PHMSA regulations, emergency responders are also responsible for knowing and understanding pipeline risks and ensuring that they have prepared response plans in cooperation with pipeline operators.

<https://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/PublicAwareness/PublicAwareness.htm>

The National Pipeline Mapping System (NPMS)

Knowing where pipelines are in your community is fundamental to effective pipeline emergency mitigation and management. The NPMS is a web-based mapping tool that allows users to view maps and basic information about hazardous liquid and natural gas transmission pipelines in the United States (the system does not contain natural gas distribution pipelines). Other mapping data in the NPMS includes liquefied natural gas (LNG) plants, populated areas, aerial imagery, topography, and street maps. Users of the NPMS can view and query the data in a variety of ways, including searching by pipeline type, operator name, or zip code. Users can also view basic information about the pipelines in the NPMS, including operator name, pipeline diameter, and commodities transported. There are three ways to access the NPMS:

- A public viewer that provides a general county-by-county view of pipelines
- A password-protected viewer for government officials that provides more detailed information
- Downloading data for inclusion in local geographic information systems.

<http://www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov>

Who We Are

The Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) is part of the US Department of Transportation’s Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). Our programs are driven by our mission to ensure the safe, reliable, and environmentally sound operation of our nation’s pipeline transportation system.

<http://phmsa.dot.gov/pipeline>

Pipelines and Emergency Responders

There are approximately 2.5 million miles of natural gas and hazardous liquid pipelines in the United States. These pipelines transport a variety of hazardous materials, including natural gas, crude oil, heating oil, diesel, gasoline, jet fuel, kerosene, propane, butane, ethylene, propylene, hydrogen carbon dioxide, anhydrous ammonia, ethanol, and others. The Office of Pipeline Safety’s regulations and safety initiatives are designed to prevent pipeline emergencies. Fire departments routinely respond to gas pipeline incidents, but these incidents generally involve small distribution pipelines at homes or businesses. Fortunately, most often these gas distribution incidents are not catastrophic. In contrast, large-scale pipeline incidents on major transmission pipelines are low-frequency but potentially high-consequence events. These larger transmission pipelines are very different from smaller distribution pipelines that fire departments typically encounter. It is important that emergency responders know what to do when catastrophic pipeline emergencies occur because it helps ensure the safety of emergency responders, the public, property, and the environment.

Communication is Essential

The most important aspects of pipeline emergency preparedness and response are communication and cooperation between pipeline operators and emergency responders. There is no substitute for establishing positive working relationships *before* emergencies occur. Federal regulations require pipeline operators to communicate with emergency responders in communities traversed by pipelines. Pipeline operators are required to communicate